

**THE PRIME MINISTER OF
VIETNAM**

No.: 911/QĐ-TTg

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence - Freedom - Happiness

Hanoi, July 29, 2022

DECISION

**APPROVING SCHEME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN FISHERY
SECTOR IN THE 2021 – 2030 PERIOD**

THE PRIME MINISTER OF VIETNAM

Pursuant to the Law on Government Organization dated June 19, 2015; the Law on Amendments to the Law on Government Organization and the Law on Local Government Organization dated November 22, 2019;

Pursuant to the Law on environmental protection dated November 17, 2020;

Pursuant to the Law on biodiversity dated November 13, 2008;

Pursuant to the Law on Sea of Vietnam dated June 21, 2012;

Pursuant to the Law on Resources and Environment of Sea and Islands dated June 25, 2015;

Pursuant to the Law on Fisheries dated November 21, 2017;

Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 339/QĐ-TTg dated March 11, 2021 approving the Strategy for development of Vietnam's fishery sector by 2030 with a vision by 2045;

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.

HEREBY DECIDES:

Article 1. The Scheme for environmental protection in fishery sector in the 2021 – 2030 period (hereinafter referred to as “Scheme”) is hereby given approval. The Scheme, inter alia, includes the following primary contents:

I. OBJECTIVES

1. General objectives:

Control and prevent pollution in fishery activities; prevent and deal with environmental emergencies; protect and develop aquatic resources and living environment, and thus contribute to the prevention of biodiversity loss; improve climate change adaptation capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; formulate and develop circular economy and green economy models in fishery activities for the purposes of environmental protection and sustainable development of fishery sector.

2. Specific objectives by 2030

- Carry out investigation into, assessment, management and control of sources of pollution and waste from fishery activities; terminate the use of toxic chemicals in aquaculture which causes pollution of water sources and biodiversity loss;
- Gradually study and carry out inventory and assessment of aquatic natural capital to serve the socio-economic development; establish and apply natural ecological systems and make investment in development of aquatic natural capital;
- Deal with environmental issues concerning fishery activities; improve capacity for preventing and warning environmental emergencies in fishery sector;
- Effectively develop aquatic environmental monitoring network and services (including soil, water and sediment monitoring); build and integrate aquatic environmental monitoring database into ministerial and national environmental database;
- Effectively carry out conservation, protection and development of aquatic resources; protection of living environment for aquatic species and restoration of important ecosystems for aquatic resources (including mangrove forests, seagrasses, coral reefs, etc.) which will make contribution to prevention of biodiversity loss; formulate and promulgate at least 02 actions plans for conservation, protection and regeneration of certain aquatic species which are given priority for protection;
- Provide training/drilling and disseminate laws, schemes and plans for protection of aquatic environment to 100% of officials and public employees in fishery sector, 80% of aquatic enterprises, 30% - 50% of fishers and aquaculture households;
- Contribute to improvement of climate change adaptation capacity and step up reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; maintain the annual increase of 8% of aquaculture zone applying sustainable and good aquaculture practices.
- Study, apply and gradually develop the circular economy and green economy models in the value chains of aquatic products in a large scale.

II. TASKS AND SOLUTIONS

1. Tasks

a) Review, formulate and revise regulations of law on environmental protection in fishery sector

- Cooperate with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam to review, study and propose formulation/amendment of legislative documents on environmental protection in fishery sector in a manner that ensures specific characteristics of the fishery sector;

- Formulate and promulgate technical regulations and guidelines on proactive prevention and control of waste from fishery activities posing high risk of environmental pollution; amend national technical regulations and standards for environmental protection in fishery sector;

- Formulate and implement plans for environmental protection in fishery sector;

- Formulate regulations with a view to achieving the objectives of collecting and reducing waste from fishery activities, especially waste generated by establishments/family households engaging in small-scale commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing and trading of aquatic products.

b) Proactively prevent, manage and control sources of pollution and waste from fishery activities; carry out environmental monitoring to serve the management of fishery sector (including soil, water and sediment monitoring)

- Carry out investigation and overall assessment of waste sources in fishery activities (commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing of aquatic products, fishery infrastructure facilities);

- Formulate and promulgate environmental management plans and implement solutions for control of waste from fishery activities; attach special importance to control and prevention of pollution in coastal areas and areas of high biodiversity value;

- Proactively deal with environmental issues and other issues arising in fishery activities;

- Review, strengthen and establish an environmental monitoring network (including soil, water and sediment monitoring); carry out annual environmental monitoring (including soil, water and sediment monitoring) at concentrated/key aquaculture zones, fishing port systems, water inlets and outlets of aquaculture zones, aquatic product processing villages, marine protected areas and protected zones of aquatic resources; implement the Plan for environmental monitoring, warning and supervision in fishery sector in the 2021 – 2025 period (enclosed with the Decision No. 1151/QĐ-BNN-TCTS dated March 19, 2021 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam); organize training to improve monitoring capacity of local officials, public employees and workers.

- Build and integrate aquatic environmental monitoring database into ministerial and national environmental database;

- Carry out investigation, assessment and classification of environmental quality in uncultivated aquaculture zones; formulate and implement plans for remediation and restoration of polluted areas due to fishery activities;
- Implement the Plan for management of marine plastic waste in fishery sector in the 2021 – 2030 period (enclosed with the Decision No. 687/QĐ-BNN-TCTS dated February 05, 2021 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development);
- Implement the provisions of Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL);
- Intensify inspection and supervision of environmental protection in fishery sector.

c) Inventory and assess aquatic natural capital serving sustainable development fishery sector

- Carry out investigation, assessment and inventory of aquatic natural capital (tangible and intangible values, etc. of aquatic resources, living environment of aquatic species, aquatic ecosystems, etc.);
- Study and formulate policies and mechanisms for efficient use of aquatic natural capital;
- Study and formulate policies and mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services in order to create resources for sustainable use of aquatic natural capital (tangible value, intangible value, etc.);
- Study, formulate and apply the mechanism for the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in fishery sector;
- Effectively operate the Fund for Aquatic Resources Development and Protection.

d) Instruct, inspect and improve capacity for preventing and warning environmental emergencies in fishery sector

- Study, develop and gradually apply the model of preparedness, control and early warning of environmental emergencies to aquaculture, commercial fishing, processing of aquatic products, and fishery infrastructure facilities; formulate the plan for preparedness, control and early warning of environmental emergencies; formulate and implement technical guidelines nationwide;
- Improve capacity and skills in preventing and warning environmental emergencies of relevant parties;
- Participate in the process of response to environmental emergencies as assigned by the National Committee for Disaster Response, Search and Rescue.

dd) Promote application of circular economy and green economy models to fishery activities

- Apply science and technology, technological advances with the aim of efficiently using aquatic natural resources and reducing environmental pollution caused by fishery activities;
- Carry out fishery model transition towards circular economy and green economy models; develop organic, hi-tech and eco-friendly aquaculture production, and implement the National Action Program for sustainable production and consumption in 2021 – 2030 period enclosed with the Decision No. 889/QĐ-TTg dated June 24, 2020 of the Prime Minister of Vietnam;
- Study, develop and gradually apply the models of enterprises/establishments/trade villages/artels engaging in aquaculture, commercial fishing, processing and trading of aquatic products towards green production and use of eco-friendly materials;
- Apply the model of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in aquaculture production;
- Formulate instructional and training materials and give assistance in implementation and development of sustainable aquatic product processing linkage/trade village models, and models of sustainable aquatic product supply chains and supply chains associated with product origin traceability; organic aquaculture model which should be connected with the national product and goods traceability portal.

e) Carry out conservation, protection and development of aquatic resources, and restoration of important ecosystems which will contribute to reduction of biodiversity loss

- protect living environment for aquatic species (quality of environment and typical ecosystems: coral reefs, seagrasses, mangrove forests, etc.);
- Expand marine protected areas; carry out zoning, recognition and assignment of management of protected zones of aquatic resources;
- Study and develop other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) to motivate conservation outside marine protected areas;
- Formulate and execute projects on restoration of key ecosystems for aquatic resources such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangrove forests, estuary, coastal and marine areas which are identified as spawning, nursing or breeding grounds for rare and endangered aquatic species, aquatic species with high economic value, and endemic or native aquatic species;

- Formulate action programs/plans for conservation, protection and development of rare and endangered aquatic species, and aquatic species given priority for protection in order to meet requirements of exporting markets;
- Formulate and implement plans for conservation and storage of genetic resources of rare and endangered aquatic species, endemic or native aquatic species;
- Intensify prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
- Strictly control and prevent invasive alien aquatic species.

2. Solutions

a) Increase awareness of environmental protection in fishery activities of relevant parties

- Disseminate information and increase awareness of regulatory authorities of all levels and in all sectors of the viewpoint “environment is considered as the basis, key factor and prerequisite for sustainable social economic development” according to the Conclusion No. 56-KL/TW dated August 23, 2019 of the Poliburo. Gradually change the mindset of regulatory authorities of all levels and in all sectors in planning and formulation of development policies;

- Increase awareness and knowledge of green economy and circular economy; encourage enterprises and family households producing/trading aquatic products to implement standards and voluntary commitments on environment; increase awareness of compliance with law and fulfillment of environmental responsibility of producers of aquatic products and fishers;

- Promote the communication about environmental protection in fishery activities in particular, and the communication about environmental protection in general to relevant parties; attach special importance to fishers, aquaculture farmers, aquatic product processing workers and residential communities participating in fishery activities.

b) Carry out scientific development and apply technologies to fishery activities and treatment of waste generated from fishery activities

- Carry out scientific research and apply technological advances to fishery activities towards modern, advanced and eco-friendly technologies with the aim of reducing waste according to the circular economy model;

- Encourage private sector involvement and enterprises to do research and apply technologies to treatment of waste generated from fishery activities; allow private sector involvement and improve capacity of conformity assessment bodies in environment sector;

- Build, and frequently and punctually update the aquatic environment database which should be connected to the national fisheries database. Gradually carry out digital transformation regarding the aquatic environment database;

- Apply Industry 4.0 technologies, information technology, remote sensing, AI, origin traceability, etc. to monitoring and inspection of business processes and environmental remediation.

c) Invest in construction of infrastructure facilities serving the treatment, Collection, storage and transport of waste; aquatic environmental monitoring system

- Make investment in construction of synchronous infrastructure facilities in concentrated aquaculture zones, key aquaculture zones, fishing port system, storm shelters, aquatic product processing villages, etc. in accordance with regulations of law on environmental protection;

- Develop a synchronous network of aquatic environmental monitoring agencies from central to local level; formulate and implement aquatic environmental monitoring programs (aquaculture, commercial fishing, processing of aquatic products, and fishery infrastructure facilities) in an efficient manner;

- Make investment in construction of synchronous infrastructure facilities and equipment for marine protected areas with the aim of efficiently performing the conservation, protection and sustainable development of aquatic resources.

d) Study mechanisms and policies on giving incentives on exploitation, use, investment, maintenance and development of aquatic natural capital; mobilize resources and encourage private sector involvement in protection of aquatic environment

- Formulate policies, technical standards, national technical regulations, and technical guidelines for environmental protection in fishery sector;

- Study and formulate mechanisms for payment for aquatic ecosystem services in order to create sustainable finance for protection, maintenance and development of aquatic ecosystems; mechanisms and policies for giving incentives and assistance for eco-friendly fishery activities;

- Formulate mechanisms for encouraging enterprises to participate in provision of environmental services in recycling, waste treatment and treatment of environmental pollution in fishery sector;

- Promote the role of the Fund for Aquatic Resources Development and Protection; encourage and assist the establishment of provincial funds and community funds to raise finance for environmental protection in fishery sector;

- Encourage and assist establishment of public-private partnerships (PPP) in environmental protection in fishery sector;
- Study, formulate and promulgate the EPR mechanism for environmental protection in fishery sector;
- Study, develop and apply the circular economy and green economy models in aquaculture production in a large scale.

dd) Intensify implementation of policies and laws on environmental protection in fishery activities

- Review and deal with overlapping functions and tasks of state management of environmental issues amongst ministries and regulatory authorities; clearly divide authority and responsibility between central and provincial authorities with the aim of ensuring consistent and thorough management of performance of environmental protection tasks;
- Implement regulations on environmental protection set out in international treaties to which Vietnam is a signatory;
- Carry out inspection of provincial authorities' management of environmental protection;
- Intensify community-based management of aquatic environmental protection; publicly disclose information on environment and environmental protection using information technology applications.

e) Promote international cooperation in environmental protection

- Implement regulations and commitments on environment set out in free trade agreements, especially new-generation free trade agreements, in order to ensure sustainable development of fishery sector;
- Closely cooperate with neighboring countries and ASEAN Member States in tackling cross-border environmental problems, including aquatic resources, marine plastic litter, rare and endangered aquatic species, marine pollution, etc.;
- Intensify multilateral cooperation: promote the implementation of commitments on environmental protection, biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and attract investment in technical assistance projects.

III. PRIORITY PROJECTS AND TASKS

- Disseminate information and increase awareness of environmental protection in fishery activities;

- Carry out investigation and assessment of actual situations and propose/formulate policies and mechanisms on giving incentives and assistance for eco-friendly fishery activities with the aim of promoting circular economy and green economy;
- Implement programs on investigation, assessment and inventory of aquatic natural capital (tangible and intangible values, etc.) serving socio-economic development;
- Investigate into and assess sources of pollution and the volume of waste generated from fishery activities, and propose appropriate management solutions;
- Improve capacity for preventing and warning environmental emergencies in fishery sector;
- Carry out environmental monitoring serving management of fishery sector (soil, water and sediment monitoring);
- Investigate into and assess existing technologies and application of technologies to treatment of waste generated from aquaculture, commercial fishing and processing of aquatic products, and propose technological solutions for treatment of waste generated from fishery activities;
- Renovate and apply waste treatment technologies to fishery activities in order to establish the premiss for salvage and use of fishery waste and by-products in the form of public-private collaboration;
- Study and gradually make investment in development of advanced waste management model in fishery activities;
- Build, update and operate the aquatic environment database.

(Further details are available in Appendix I enclosed herewith).

IV. FUNDING

Based on their tasks assigned under the Scheme, relevant ministries and regulatory authorities shall formulate annual action plans, make and submit costs estimates for such plans to competent authorities for approval in accordance with regulations of the Law on State Budget.

Provincial governments shall consider allocating funding derived from their local government budgets and mobilizing other lawful sources of funding for implementing environmental protection in fisher sector in their provinces as prescribed.

Article 2. Implementation organization

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam shall:

- a) play the leading role and cooperate with relevant ministries, regulatory authorities, provincial People's Committees and relevant agencies in organizing the implementation of this Scheme; formulating plans for environment management and control of waste generated from fishery activities; proactively including objectives and tasks of this Schemes in national target programs and relevant schemes and projects in charge by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.
- b) instruct, supervise, expedite, inspect and carry out preliminary assessment of annual, 5-year and 10-year implementation of the Scheme; propose or request the Prime Minister of Vietnam to issue decisions on settlement of issues arising beyond its authority, make amendments to this Scheme and/or supplement priority projects/tasks in conformity with actual conditions.
- c) organize activities to raise awareness of environmental protection in aquaculture productions; intensify implementation of policies and law on environmental protection in fishery activities.
- d) study mechanisms and policies on giving incentives on exploitation, use, investment, maintenance and development of aquatic natural capital; mobilize resources and encourage private sector involvement in protection of aquatic environment.
- dd) play the leading role and cooperate with relevant ministries and regulatory authorities in reviewing and supplementing specific policies for aquatic environment with the aim of promoting circular economy and green economy in fishery activities. Build aquatic environment database which should be connected with the national database system.
- e) formulate and implement priority projects and tasks of this Scheme.
- g) cooperate with the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam in consolidating and requesting competent authorities to allocate funding derived from state budget to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam for implementing this Scheme and priority projects in accordance with regulations of the Law on State Budget and its guiding documents; balance and allocate funding for performing tasks set out in this Scheme according to the prescribed schedule after receiving funds allocated from competent authorities.

2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam shall:

- a) play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in ensuring that hazardous solid waste generated from production, trading, import and export of aquatic products is collected, transported and treated in a manner that meet environmental protection requirements.
- b) play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in formulating national technical regulations on waste management applicable to aquatic product processing plants and aquaculture

establishments in conformity with specific characteristics of the fishery sector so as to ensure sustainable development of the fishery sector.

c) play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in formulating programs for and efficiently implementing measures for prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien aquatic species; intensify biosafety management of genetically modified organisms.

3. The Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam shall:

a) play the leading role and cooperate with relevant ministries and regulatory authorities in intensifying implementation of support policies for investment, research on application and transfer of high and eco-friendly technologies in fishery activities in order to increase productivity and efficiency in production and environmental friendliness.

b) cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam and relevant ministries and regulatory authorities in formulating and announcing national standards which should be in line with international and regional standards; appraise national technical regulations; implement solutions for conformity assessment and origin traceability according to viewpoints and objectives of this Scheme;

c) intensify assistance in protection of intellectual property rights, technological know-how and solutions in green production activities in fishery sector and aquatic environmental protection.

4. The Ministry of Finance of Vietnam shall:

a) take charge and give instructions for management, use and statement of funding for non-profit activities allocated for implementing the Scheme.

b) play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in consolidating and requesting competent authorities to balance and allocate funding from state budget to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, relevant ministries and regulatory authorities for implementing the Scheme and executing priority projects in accordance with regulations of the Law on state budget and its guiding documents. Based on the balancing capacity of the central government budget and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, and relevant ministries and regulatory authorities, prioritize allocation of funding in annual recurrent expenditure estimate of the central government budget, submit it to competent authorities for considering and issuing decisions to balance and allocate the estimated funding to relevant authorities and units in accordance with regulations of the Law on state budget and its guiding documents for implementing the Scheme.

5. The Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam shall:

Intensify inspection of handling of violations against regulations on environmental protection in fishery sector.

6. Other relevant ministries and regulatory authorities:

a) Relevant ministries and regulatory authorities shall, within the ambit of their assigned functions and tasks, play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in efficiently implementing contents and tasks of the Scheme.

b) Allocate funding according to expenditure estimate of the central government budget allocated by competent authorities and other lawful funding sources for performing assigned tasks in accordance with regulations of law.

7. Each provincial People's Committee shall:

a) Based on actual conditions of their province, instruct the implementation of this Scheme; promulgate policies for encouraging and assisting enterprises, family households and fishers; attach special importance to mechanisms and policies for promoting green and clean fishery activities towards circular economy and in conformity with local resources.

b) Organize planning for use of land for environmental remediation in respect of fishery activities in concentrated aquaculture zones, fishing ports and aquatic product processing industrial parks and villages.

c) play the leading role and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam in formulating plans for environment management and control of waste generated from fishery activities in their province; developing models of control of waste generated from fishery activities (aquaculture, commercial fishing, processing of aquatic products); circular economy model in local linkages of production, processing and consumption of aquatic products; inspect compliance with regulations of law on environmental protection by entities performing fishery activities in their province.

d) Cooperate with ministries, regulatory authorities and other local governments in formulating mechanisms for preparedness and response to inter-provincial environmental emergencies arising from fishery activities.

dd) Based on actual conditions, combine contents of this Scheme with provincial socio-economic development plans.

e) Request the Provincial People's Council to allocate funding for implementing the Scheme in respect of tasks funded by local government budget in accordance with current regulations on division of state budget authority; mobilize other lawful funding sources for performing environmental protection activities in fishery activities in their province.

8. Relevant associations and parties

a) Cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, and local governments in disseminating information and instruct their members of responsibility and role in performing environmental protection in fishery sector; mobilize and remind individuals and enterprises to comply with regulations of law on environmental protection in fishery sector.

b) Participate in proposal of mechanisms, policies and measures for encouraging and assisting entities in making investment in environmental protection in fishery sector.

c) Organize implementation or cooperate with relevant state management agencies in efficiently implementing policies on giving assistance to people, cooperatives and enterprises in performing fishery activities and participating in treatment and recycling of waste generated from fishery activities.

(The plan for implementing the Scheme is available in Appendix II enclosed herewith).

Article 3. This Decision comes into force from the date on which it is signed.

Article 4. Ministers, heads of ministerial agencies, heads of governmental agencies, Chairpersons of Provincial People's Committees, and relevant organizations and individuals shall implement this Decision.

**PP. PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Le Van Thanh

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